

Venerable Apparakke Jinaratana Buddhist Monk

29 April 2024

The late Venerable Apparakke Jinaratana, a Theravada Buddhist *Bhikkhu* [Monk], lived in a cave on a hill in Sri Lanka. He died in 2005.

BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project

BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) Secretary Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquette Gomes was one of the founders of BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project. The BEP Buddhist Embroidery Project was started by attendees (including Jacquette Gomes) of the LBV London Buddhist Vihara [Monastery] in 1994. The late Venerable Apparakke Jinaratana, a Theravada Buddhist Bhikkhu [Monk], who lived in a cave in Sri Lanka, near a very poor village, was using very old newspapers (supplied by villagers) as tablecloths. The BEP decided to embroider tablecloths, wall hangings and sitting cloths for his use. Although items are given to one monk, they actually belong to the whole of the Sangha [Community of Buddhist Monks] according to the Vinaya [Buddhist Monastic Discipline]. In Asian villages, washing is done in streams and waterfalls, and hung to dry in the hot sun, so items do not last as long as they do in the west.

Anne Wynn-Wilson the late founder of the Quaker Tapestry had made the wonderful suggestion that a Buddhist Embroidery Project would be beneficial. Anne Wynn-Wilson commented, "Sharing the making of such a gift enriches both the giver and receiver" in 1994. Materials were donated by Buddhists and Quakers after requests for donations were made in *The Friend: The Quaker Weekly*, *The Devon Vihara Newsletter*, and *The Middle Way: Journal of The Buddhist Society [London]*. A photograph of the monk receiving the embroideries appeared in *The Friend: The Quaker Weekly* on 28 June 1996, and the August 1996 issue of *The Middle Way: Journal of The Buddhist Society [London]*.

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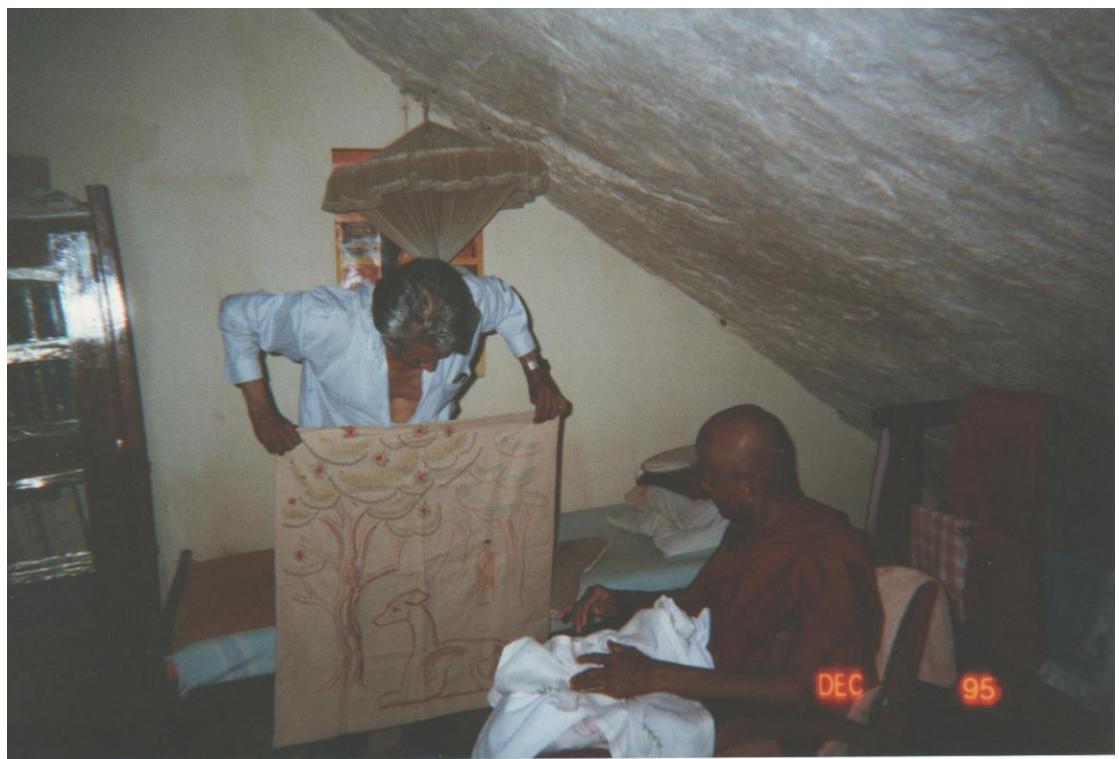
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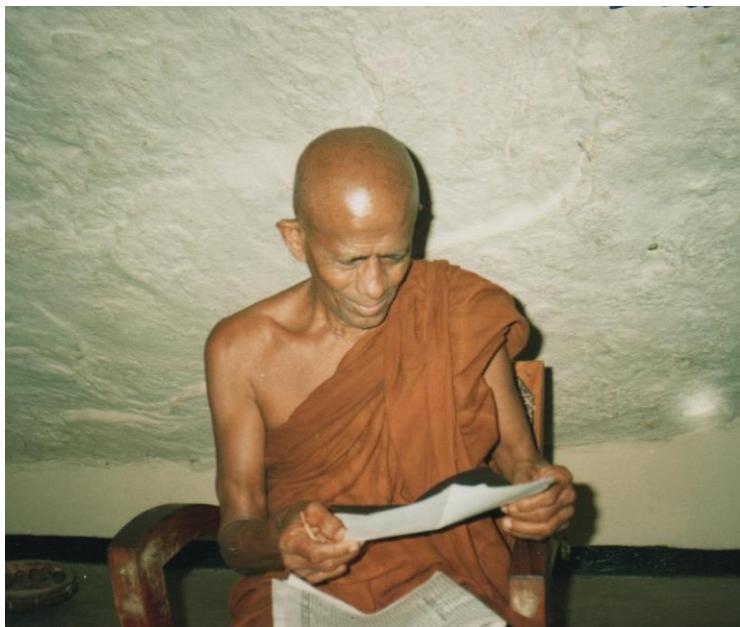
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Presentation of Embroideries December 1995



1992



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